



Internal Update

Friday, November 27, 2020



COVID-19 Response Framework
Current Level for our Region



Orange - Restrict
(intermediate measures)

Enhanced measures, restrictions and enforcement, avoiding any closures.

Click [here](#) for more details on this level.



COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard

This dashboard presents status levels of four domains (below) using a three colour-coded system (Red, Yellow & Green) that reflect the SMDHU's assessment of current state of the pandemic in Simcoe Muskoka, and our local public health system.

Current Overall Status: Yellow - Indicators Need Attention



Virus Spread & Containment

Status: **Red**



Laboratory Testing

Status: **Yellow**



Health System Capacity

Status: **Yellow**



Public Health System Capacity

Status: **Yellow**

For more details on the COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard for our region, please click [here](#).

Supervisors/Managers, please print and post this update in your area and discuss with your employees to ensure they're aware of these topics.

1) Simcoe Muskoka moved into Orange-Restrict level of Province's Reopening Framework

Changes include:

- Restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments, meeting and event spaces - Limit of 4 people seated together, reduced from 6 people. Regardless of size of space there is a 50-person capacity, with minimum 2 metres between tables. Reduced hours – close at 10:00 p.m. Reduced hours for liquor sales, serving, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. only. Require screening of patrons (ie. questionnaire).
- Retail - Limiting capacity in retail stores and in shopping malls in winter based on 2 meters of physical distancing. For malls - require screening of patrons at mall entrances (ie. questionnaire).
- Personal Care Services - Services requiring removal of face coverings prohibited. Change rooms and showers closed. Bath houses, other adult venues, hot tubs, floating pools and sensory deprivation pods closed (some exceptions). Require screening of patrons (ie. questionnaire).
- Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments - Liquor sales, serving restricted to 9 a.m. -9 p.m. No consumption after 10 p.m. Require screening of patrons (ie. questionnaire).

2) Special Statement to all Residents from Dr. Charles Gardner (SMDHU)

I am asking all residents of Simcoe Muskoka to take the following actions immediately:

Close Contact, Gatherings and Events

- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone, may consider having close contact with one other household.
- Physical distance (two metres) from everyone else outside of your immediate household.
- Wear a face covering indoors, outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained, or if wearing one is required.
- Adhere to provincial and applicable local restrictions on public and private gatherings.



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Travel

- Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.
- Individuals and families in higher transmission areas should avoid travel to lower transmission areas (ie. from Red to Orange, from Yellow to Green) except for essential reasons.
- Individuals and families who consider travelling to another province for essential reasons during the holidays should:
 - Consider the risk associated with travelling, including COVID-19 transmission in the other province, entry requirements (ie. quarantine).
 - Self-quarantine, or drastically reduce close contact with others 10 to 14 days before travelling and after returning home. This will help lower the risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- Follow general (Ontario) public health advice, as well as any rules and regulations of the province you visit.

General Advice

- Stay home if you have symptoms, even if they are mild.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly.
- Cover your cough.
- Download the COVID Alert mobile app.
- Get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you've been advised of exposure by the health unit or through the COVID Alert mobile app.

3) Ontario Deploys Rapid Testing to Support COVID-19 Response

New Technology is a Gamechanger in Significantly Improving Screening for the Virus

- The Ontario government has deployed new COVID-19 rapid tests to provide faster results in regions of high transmission and rural and remote areas.
- As an additional tool to help keep essential workers safe, rapid tests will also be used to screen staff in long-term care homes and select workplaces. These new tests will provide Ontarians with more access to innovative testing options and will help to quickly identify and manage outbreaks to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Ontario has received approximately 98,000 ID NOW tests that are initially being used in hospitals and assessment centres in rural and remote communities, as well as to test people as part of early outbreak investigations in hotspot regions where there are high concentrations of COVID-19 cases.
- ID NOW tests continue to be distributed in Simcoe Muskoka, Southwestern Ontario and Eastern Ontario, and the program will be expanded to other areas of the province beginning in December.

To read the full media release, visit: [Ontario Deploys Rapid Testing](#)

Reminder: Get your flu shot: North Simcoe Family Health Team Immunization Flu Clinic

- Monday To Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Call to book an appointment: 705-526-7804
- Ages 6 Months and Up
- If You Have Any COVID-19 Symptoms Please do not come to the Clinic
- Masks are Mandatory upon entry.
- They will not be offering the High Dose (HD TIV) Flu Vaccine

New Location:
619 Prospect Boulevard, Suite 3
Midland, ON
For more details visit the
North Simcoe Family Health Team
website: <https://nsfht.ca/>

If an appointment is only possible during working hours, the Senior Leadership Team supports Managers and Supervisors making accommodations for employees to attend an appointment for the flu shot with advance notice.